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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God of history and present in our day, help this Congress to move forward in hope. Each new day in this land of freedom is an opportunity for Your people to venture forth, alone or connected to others, into the vast horizon of the future.

Relying on Your hope, give to Your people vision in place of confusion, and confirmation of noble ideas and good judgment. Help the representatives of Your people to work for the common good, with discerning eyes, contemplative listening, and reasoned decisions.

May they lead this Nation to be people of faith by being attentive to Your commands, to become Your instrument and accomplish Your holy will, both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1421. An act to amend section 42 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation and shipment of certain species of carp.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests for 1-minutes on each side of the aisle.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Ms. PINGREE of Maine asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Speaker, if this Congress does not act on unemployment benefits today, we risk gambling away those critical benefits for millions of men and women across the country. This couldn't come at a worse time.

Just weeks before Christmas, with winter settling in, thousands of people in my State of Maine will see their benefits run out. Although our economy has shown some signs of improving, far, far too many people are still unable to find a job.

Not only are unemployment benefits an essential part of the safety net, they are critical to keeping the local economy moving. When an unemployed Mainer gets a benefit check, he or she turns around and spends that money in the local community, at the supermarket or the gas station or the hardware store. In fact, every \$1 of unemployment benefits generates \$2 in local economic activity, according to the Department of Labor.

Madam Speaker, for the sake of out-of-work Americans and businesses

across this country, I urge my colleagues in the House to come together and extend unemployment benefits so we can keep our economy moving.

LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on November 2nd, the American people amplified their voices to command a new way forward. They were tired of lawmakers strangling them with Big Government regulations instead of creating much-needed jobs, and they were tired of excessive borrowing and spending.

Yesterday, the Republican Conference listened to the concerns of Americans and selected leaders who will transform the way business is done in Washington. I believe our team, led by JOHN BOEHNER and ERIC CANTOR, will curb spending, create jobs, and promote opportunities to keep money in the pockets of hardworking taxpayers.

I was particularly thrilled with the election of South Carolina's Tim Scott—from my birthplace of Charleston—to the leadership team. Congressman-elect Scott's business background and proven record of bringing jobs to South Carolina is a great addition to the new Republican leadership. I look forward to working with him to promote limited government and expanded freedom.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the global war on terrorism.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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